

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1956

9 APR 1956

Issued by the Government Statistician (Mr. R. J. Little), Perth

29th March, 1956

This report gives particulars relative to the following items:-

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POPULATION ESTIMATES

Whole State at 30th September, 1955 -

Males - 341,642

Females - 322,446

Persons - 664,088

Metropolitan Area at 30th June, 1955 -

Persons - 359,000

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

	JANUARY		Twelve Months ended DECEMBER	
	1956	1955	1955	1954
Marriages - Number	484	507	5,145	5,204
* Rate per 1000 of Population	8.52	9.18	7.81	8.13
Births - Number	1,340	1,196	16,623	15,928
* Rate per 1000 of Population	23.58	21.66	25.24	24.88
Deaths - Number	403	339	5,379	5,364
* Rate per 1000 of Population	7.09	6.14	8.17	8.38
Infant - Number	29	26	373	359
Mortality * Rate per 1000 Live Births	21.64	21.74	22.44	22.54
PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH -				
Tuberculosis	1	3	33	61
Malignant neoplasms	85	42	761	781
Diabetes mellitus	4	6	63	55
Diseases of blood, etc.	-	1	16	16
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	43	35	665	629
Diseases of the heart	105	102	1,712	1,674
Hypertension with heart disease	12	14	145	178
Hypertensive disease without mention of heart	5	6	72	85
Arteriosclerosis	11	5	142	136
Influenza	1	-	13	31
Pneumonia	9	18	179	167
Bronchitis	2	1	50	48
Other respiratory disease	5	2	61	55
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	3	29	44
Gastro-enteritis and colitis	2	1	19	32
Chronic enteritis and ulcerative colitis	-	-	9	7
Cirrhosis of the liver	2	1	21	21
Nephritis and nephrosis	8	2	67	80
Disease of the prostate	1	1	44	53
Maternal causes	1	1	14	12
Disease of early infancy	12	14	218	220
Motor Vehicle Accidents	15	16	195	182
Other Accidents	15	18	211	194
Suicide	11	10	82	76
All other causes	52	37	558	527
Total:	403	339	5,379	5,364

\* Equivalent Annual Rate.

\* Deaths under one year.



# LAND SETTLEMENT

Land taken up under conditional alienation during the two months ended February, 1956, totalled 180,417 acres, an increase of 65,225 acres on the corresponding period last year. Pastoral, special and miscellaneous leases registered amounted to 963,850 acres, an increase of 777,062.

## STATE GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Item	Month of FEBRUARY		Eight Months ended FEBRUARY	
	1956	1955	1956	1955
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Revenue	4,047,669	3,405,398	30,947,854	28,118,027
Revenue per Head of Population	6. 0. 4	5. 4. 7	46. 9. 4	43. 11. 3
Expenditure	4,187,095	3,506,012	33,639,929	29,073,913
Expenditure per Head of Population	6. 4. 5	5. 7. 9	50. 10. 2	45. 0. 11

## SAVINGS BANKS

Depositors' Balances on the 31st January, 1956, amounted to £54,148,680 or £80.11.7 per head of population as against £53,060,052 or £81.11.3 per head as at the 31st January last year.

## BANK CLEARANCES

The average weekly clearance for five weeks ended 29th February, 1956, amounted to £14,775,753 compared with £14,224,767 for the corresponding period last year.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Registrations effected at the Office of Land Titles and Deeds		FEBRUARY		Eight Months ended FEBRUARY	
		1956	1955	1956	1955
Transfers	No.	1,406	1,536	12,705	15,444
	£.	2,402,179	2,527,296	18,609,310	23,342,642
Mortgages	No.	977	1,190	8,508	11,419
	£.	1,694,629	2,130,350	17,399,318	21,237,987
Discharges of Mortgages	No.	741	759	6,313	7,596

## SALES TAX: SALES OF TAXABLE AND EXEMPT GOODS AND TAX COLLECTED

Period of Receipt of Returns	Taxable Goods		Sales of Exempt Goods	Tax Collected
	Sales in respect of which Tax is Payable (Net)	Sales in respect of which Tax is NOT Payable (Gross)		
	£.	£.	£.	£.
February, 1956	3,807,204	1,920,534	9,380,085	390,835
February, 1955	3,256,004	1,691,479	8,404,158	400,409
Eight months ended February, 1956	30,809,176	19,466,596	75,458,061	3,723,089
Eight months ended February, 1955	30,118,603	15,792,015	72,049,002	3,848,535





# COMPANIES REGISTERED

142 Local Companies with a nominal capital of £7,874,000 and 61 Foreign Companies were registered during the eight months ended February, 1956. Registrations for the corresponding period last year comprised 162 Local Companies with a nominal capital of £22,880,500 and 67 Foreign Companies.

## BANKRUPTCY

Item	Eight Months ended FEBRUARY					
	1956			1955		
	No.	Liabilities	Assets	No.	Liabilities	Assets
Sequestration Orders	46	80,767	24,449	39	88,314	39,461
Deeds of Assignment (a)	35	155,954	155,536	15	68,111	81,862
Deeds of Arrangement	2	8,732	6,118	1	1,223	274

(a) Includes Compositions and Schemes of Arrangement.

## TRANSPORT

The operations of the State Government Railways, open for General and Passenger traffic, were as follows:-

Item	JANUARY		Seven Months ended JANUARY	
	1956	1955	1956	1955
Gross Earnings (a)* £.	1,001,400	946,500	7,509,100	7,145,000
Working Expenses (a) £.	1,247,371	1,031,428	8,769,798	7,874,015
Train Miles Run No.	643,228	659,709	4,801,219	4,505,490
Motor Bus Miles Run No.	(b) 117,793	(b) 127,397	(c) 811,567	(c) 875,335
<u>Passenger Journeys -</u>				
Train No.	916,450	761,443	6,843,693	5,426,537
Motor Bus No.	26,628	29,826	188,731	207,893
<u>Tonnage Carried -</u>				
Paying Goods	263,958	260,448	1,979,613	1,813,226
Livestock	8,929	9,984	92,684	83,944
Departmental (Free Freight)	52,023	82,433	447,681	542,613
Total:	324,910	352,865	2,519,978	2,439,783
<u>Net Ton Mileage of -</u>				
Paying Goods	41,308,767	42,098,087	330,568,244	305,879,540
Livestock	1,057,809	1,210,173	12,260,584	11,287,425
Departmental (Free Freight)	4,692,220	9,039,398	48,545,187	70,592,661
Total:	47,058,796	52,347,658	391,374,015	387,759,626

(a) Includes operations of the Railway Road Service.

(b) Four weeks ended 7th January.

(c) Period ended 7th January.

\* Figures liable to revision.



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MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

(1) NEW VEHICLES REGISTERED (EXCLUDING COMMONWEALTH-OWNED VEHICLES)

Period	Metropolitan Area				Entire State			
	Cars (including Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles	Cars (including Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Year 1951	4,263	2,088	51	1,886	7,914	5,730	101	3,192
Year 1952	4,088	2,006	74	1,121	8,068	5,471	112	1,939
Year 1953	4,460	1,869	57	746	8,152	5,015	76	1,239
Year 1954	6,499	2,487	34	736	11,657	6,000	70	1,267
Year 1955	6,852	2,533	18	701	11,591	5,473	59	1,126
1956 - January	419	167	-	63	737	365	4	94

(2) MOTOR VEHICLES IN USE (EFFECTIVE REGISTRATIONS) /

Date (as at end of Month)	Metropolitan Area				Entire State			
	Cars (including Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles	Cars (including Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1954 - June	47,819	20,400	593	9,692	78,217	58,471	1,117	15,237
December	52,072	21,721	590	9,713	84,868	60,144	1,136	14,886
1955 - June	55,720	22,694	555	9,605	90,151	61,946	1,131	14,652
December	59,374	23,666	562	9,342	94,907	62,324	1,141	14,035
1956 - January	59,949	23,869	562	9,374	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)

(a) Not available.

/ Excluding Commonwealth-Owned Vehicles which comprised for January, 1956:-  
88 Cars; 791 Wagons, Vans, etc.; 4 Buses and 6 Motor Cycles.

TRADE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA)

Expressed in terms of Australian Currency

Item	IMPORTS				EXPORTS (Including Ships' Stores)			
	JANUARY		7 Months ended JANUARY		JANUARY		7 Months ended JANUARY	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Oversea	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000
Interstate	3,657	4,933	28,121	28,276	6,873	7,441	42,558	39,033
	6,764	8,714	50,034	54,459	1,946	3,596	22,558	11,188
Total:	10,421	13,647	78,155	82,735	8,819	11,037	65,116	50,221



# BUILDING ACTIVITY

## (1) NEW BUILDING COMPLETED

Period	Dwellings				Factories		Other		Total	
	Owner-Built		By Contractors etc. (a)							
	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000
Year 1946	55	32	1,316	1,221	52	82	145	192	1,568	1,527
Year 1947	165	109	2,245	2,380	37	64	164	327	2,611	2,880
Year 1948	514	346	2,544	3,041	49	160	268	431	3,375	3,978
Year 1949	825	693	2,485	3,476	57	215	317	657	3,684	5,041
Year 1950	1,313	1,365	3,331	4,727	41	263	428	651	5,113	7,006
Year 1951	1,913	2,835	4,137	6,969	40	459	433	986	6,523	11,249
Year 1952	2,883	5,824	4,946	11,201	63	667	604	2,424	8,496	19,934
Year 1953	2,988	7,219	4,839	12,624	84	817	714	3,657	8,625	24,317
Year 1954	3,127	8,255	5,044	13,491	111	1,544	844	5,015	9,126	28,305
Year 1955	2,788	8,194	6,422	18,091	129	3,405	933	6,900	10,272	36,590
1955 -										
March Qr.	671	1,916	1,272	3,610	32	1,235	185	1,573	2,160	8,334
June Qr.	771	2,209	1,941	5,340	33	851	229	1,260	2,974	9,660
Sept. Qr.	598	1,816	1,465	4,097	36	1,064	235	2,569	2,334	9,546
Dec. Qr.	748	2,253	1,744	5,044	28	255	284	1,498	2,804	9,050

(a) Comprises Government Day Labour as well as Private Contractor Operations and includes Shop Dwellings, Flats and Other Residentials excluded from Table (2) hereunder.

## (2) HOUSE CONSTRUCTION (Includes Owner-Built Homes)

Period	Houses Completed - Classified According to Materials of Outer Walls									
	Brick, Stone, Concrete, etc.		Wood or Mainly Wood		Fibro-Cement or Mainly Fibro-Cement		Other		Total	
	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000
Year 1946	578	640	186	140	373	296	227	172	1,364	1,248
Year 1947	1,114	1,365	257	196	966	862	62	47	2,399	2,470
Year 1948	1,252	1,715	326	249	1,436	1,348	29	22	3,043	3,334
Year 1949	1,449	2,235	228	191	1,571	1,649	42	43	3,290	4,118
Year 1950	1,709	2,882	337	311	2,262	2,572	55	48	4,363	5,813
Year 1951	2,155	4,560	453	525	2,933	4,241	190	218	5,731	9,544
Year 1952	3,006	8,097	745	1,609	3,844	6,678	135	263	7,730	16,647
Year 1953	2,676	8,417	976	2,657	3,966	8,277	24	54	7,642	19,405
Year 1954	2,865	9,767	214	530	4,823	10,833	4	4	7,906	21,134
Year 1955	3,268	11,775	225	621	5,271	12,614	8	17	8,772	25,027
1955 -										
March Qr.	685	2,449	30	70	1,158	2,760	1	1	1,874	5,280
June Qr.	855	2,996	91	257	1,662	3,972	-	-	2,608	7,225
Sept. Qr.	734	2,692	38	103	1,176	2,810	3	6	1,951	5,611
Dec. Qr.	994	3,638	66	191	1,275	3,072	4	10	2,339	6,911

## GOLD PRODUCTION

Item	FEBRUARY		2 Months ended FEBRUARY	
	1956	1955	1956	1955
<b>GOLD</b>				
Quantity Fine ozs.	94,638	63,414	161,026	129,125
Value (Aust. Currency)* £.	1,478,716	990,845	2,516,023	2,017,575
Dividends reported by Gold Mining Companies £.	221,875	187,500	221,875	187,500

\* Excludes premiums on gold sold for industrial purposes.



# RETAIL PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

(Base of Each Series: Weighted Average of Six Capitals for 1923/27 = 1000)

Centre	Food and Groceries				"C" Series			
	DECEMBER Quarter		Twelve Months ended DECEMBER		DECEMBER Quarter		Twelve Months ended DECEMBER	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
Metropolitan Area	2878	2798	2868	2802	2573	2502	2554	2459
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	3082	2953	3049	2910	2519	2442	2493	2426
Northam	2916	2858	2924	2817	2516	2470	2508	2417
Bunbury	2978	2853	2958	2841	2589	2512	2569	2447
Geraldton	2984	2887	2964	2870	2771	2638	2702	2577
Collie	2996	2886	2976	2869	2382	2316	2365	2299

## ESTIMATED TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

(Excluding Rural and Private Domestic)

Figures supplied by Commonwealth Statistician

Month	1955			1956		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
January	135,624	42,794	178,418	136,330	43,687	180,017
February	135,417	43,730	179,147			
March	136,290	44,016	180,306			
April	136,524	43,893	180,417			
May	136,357	43,878	180,235			
June	136,347	43,880	180,227			
July	135,696	43,901	179,597			
August	135,857	43,758	179,615			
September	136,616	43,913	180,529			
October	136,291	43,924	180,215			
November	136,970	44,401	181,371			
December	137,537	44,536	182,073			

## INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT (a)

Month	Factories (Base: 1928/29 (19,799 Employees = 100))				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
January	214	213	226	233	237
February	216	217	228	235	
March	216	220	231	236	
April	215	221	230	236	
May	214	222	231	236	
June	211	220	230	235	
July	211	221	229	233	
August	212	221	229	235	
September	211	223	228	236	
October	212	224	230	236	
November	213	227	231	238	
December	213	227	232	238	

(a) Figures subsequent to June, 1954, are preliminary.







STATE BASIC WAGE

Date of Operation	Metropolitan Area			South-West Land Division			Goldfields and Rest of State		
	Male		Female	Male		Female	Male		Female
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
31/1/56	12. 13. 8	8. 4. 11	12. 13. 11	8. 5. 0	12. 15. 11	8. 6. 4			

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY - METROPOLITAN AREA

(Generated by W.A. Government Power Stations)

Particulars	FEBRUARY		Eight Months ended FEBRUARY	
	1956	1955	1956	1955
Units Generated (1000 K.W.H.)	42,913	37,935	339,954	299,032
Units Sent Out (1000 K.W.H.)	38,631	33,608	304,666	268,115

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERINGS IN PRINCIPAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Period	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
January, 1956	8,464	311	74,152	11,530
January, 1955	8,311	403	85,456	12,898
7 Months ended January, 1956	75,169	2,587	914,644	96,845
7 Months ended January, 1955	74,014	3,153	778,415	102,748

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

(Note - Excludes non-casualty accidents where damage was estimated to be £10 or less)

Period	Non-Casualty Accidents (Damage over £10)		Casualty Accidents		Total Accidents Reported		Persons Killed		Persons Injured	
	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Year 1953	4,074	1,463	2,024	882	6,098	2,345	99	93	2,430	1,234
Year 1954	5,072	1,824	2,415	874	7,487	2,698	96	89	3,028	1,281
Year 1955	5,878	2,029	2,237	921	8,115	2,950	110	89	2,669	1,318
<u>1956</u> - January	396	167	169	67	565	234	6	7	209	104

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ITEMS OF FACTORY PRODUCTION (SUBJECT TO REVISION)

Item	Unit	FEBRUARY		Eight Months ended FEBRUARY	
		1956	1955	1956	1955
<u>Building Materials, etc.</u>					
Bath Heaters - solid fuel	no.	319	551	4,838	4,934
Bricks (in terms of standard size) - Cement	'000	208	881	2,693	7,878
- Clay	'000	8,194	8,700	66,808	66,833
Enamels	gal.	3,667	3,151	54,442	26,228
Fibrous Plaster Sheets	'000 sq.yd.	162	231	1,413	1,629
Paints (Ready Mixed) Excluding Water Paints	gal.	17,260	21,518	136,894	147,836
Tiles, roofing - Cement	'000	630	831	5,747	7,235
Timber, Sawn	'000 sup.ft.	(a)14,731	(a)14,404	(b)135,673	(b)130,642
<u>Clothing</u>					
Cardigans and Pullovers	doz.	1,053	1,091	6,077	6,677
Raincoats (inc. Oilskins)					
Men's and Boys'	no.	7	1,371	3,742	16,938
Shirts (all types) Men's and Boys'	doz.	3,360	3,544	31,135	37,557
Sports Coats - Men's	no.	871	562	4,675	6,245
Suits - Men's - 3 piece	no.	147	202	1,927	2,865
- 2 piece	no.	1,650	1,696	15,053	15,435
Trousers - Men's - Sport	no.	4,492	3,335	30,413	34,946
- Work	no.	11,236	11,682	69,018	97,824
<u>Footwear</u>					
Boots and Shoes (all types)	pair	31,979	33,421	217,639	268,773
Sandals	pair	10,942	6,086	124,668	128,190
Slippers	pair	33,979	24,595	251,274	272,929
<u>Food</u>					
Bacon and Ham	'000 lb.	601	538	5,231	5,081
Butter	'000 lb.	401	341	14,061	13,407
Cheese	'000 lb.	39	19	1,464	2,108
Confectionery (not chocolate)	'000 lb.	287	265	2,518	2,579
Jams	'000 lb.	69	77	491	432
Margarine	'000 lb.	87	94	774	744
Sauce - Tomato	pint	35,150	49,028	562,561	438,374
<u>Miscellaneous</u>					
Acids - Acetic	cwt.	360	523	4,242	2,283
- Hydrochloric	cwt.	87	145	986	864
- Nitric	cwt.	22	24	210	128
- Sulphuric	ton	18,762	15,427	119,843	100,523
Cycles, Pedal	no.	364	750	4,899	5,812
Gas Produced	million cu. ft.	101	99	973	970
Mattresses - Inner Spring	no.	1,962	1,699	15,068	14,249
- Woven Wire	no.	4,378	3,425	21,058	23,301
- Soft Filled	no.	3,776	3,627	27,399	27,645
Motor Vehicle Bodies -					
Truck Trays	no.	74	83	514	730
Utilities (all types)	no.	13	20	156	242
Trailers (all types)	no.	24	22	168	143
Perambulators	no.	86	56	484	522

(a) January figures. February not available.

(b) Seven months ended January.

